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10 August 1983

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence
FROM : 
Deputy Director, Public Affairs Office
SUBJECT : Barbara Reynolds, USA TODAY, Request for
Interview

1. Action Requested: Decline or accept request for interview by Barbara Reynolds, editor of the Inquiry Column for USA TODAY.

2. Background: In a letter to you dated 2 August 1983, Barbara Reynolds requests an interview with you which would be published in the Inquiry Column of USA TODAY. The question and answer format allows the interviewee to directly answer "the most critical questions affecting our nation". Enclosed for your review, are exemplars of interviews which have been published in the past.

3. Recommendation: None. Indicate whether you wish to decline or accept this interview and authorize Public Affairs to respond in your behalf.

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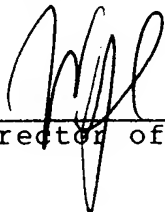


ACCEPT THE INTERVIEW:

Director of Central Intelligence

Date

DECLINE THE INTERVIEW



Director of Central Intelligence

12 AUG 1983

Date

**MEMORANDUM
OF CALL**

TO: _____

☐ YOU WERE CALLED BY— ☐ YOU WERE VISITED BY—

OF (Organization)

☐ PLEASE CALL → PHONE NO. CODE/EXT. ☐ FTS

☐ WILL CALL AGAIN ☐ IS WAITING TO SEE YOU

☐ RETURNED YOUR CALL ☐ WISHES AN APPOINTMENT

MESSAGE

276-3400

8/16 response to be
conveyed to Reynolds
on 22 August - cl 276-
3400

RECEIVED BY _____ DATE _____ TIME _____

63-109

8/23 response
relayed
23 Aug

STANDARD FORM 63 (Rev. 8-76)
Prescribed by GSA
FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6

☆ GPO : 1981 O - 341-529 (138)

EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

Routing Slip

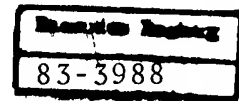
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		SUSPENSE _____ Date			

Remarks:

Ex

8/8/83
Date

THE NATION'S NEWSPAPER



PAO

83-0047

August 2, 1983

The Honorable William J. Casey
Director of Central Intelligence Agency
White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. Casey:

As editor of the Inquiry column and a member of USA TODAY's editorial board, I am requesting an interview at your earliest possible convenience.

As I know you are aware, USA TODAY, with a circulation of 1.1 million readers is now the nation's third largest newspaper. The Inquiry column is one of the newspaper's most frequently read features.

The Inquiry column's question and answer format allows the interviewee to directly answer the most critical questions affecting our nation. The time required for the interview ranges from 30 to 45 minutes.

Those selected for Inquiry are a cross-section of the nation's leaders. Among those who have been interviewed for Inquiry include: President Reagan, Vice President Bush, Rev. Jerry Falwell, Richard Richards, Bob Hope, Jimmy Carter, John R. Block, Coretta Scott King, Bill Brock and Malcolm Baldrige.

Copies of several interviews are enclosed. I hope you will be able to share your thoughts with our readers. I can be reached at (703) 276-3455.

Sincerely,

Barbara Reynolds
Inquiry Editor

Enc.

DCI
EXEC
REG

INQUIRY 2

APR 27 1983

ISSUE: THE PRESIDENCY

President Ronald Reagan, 72, expressed his views Tuesday on Central America, the administration's tax policy and the defense budget in an interview with USA TODAY Editor John C. Quinn, Washington Editor Don Campbell, and Ann Devroy, White House correspondent.

El Salvador needs more aid from USA

USA TODAY: Are you happy with the House committee action Tuesday, which halved your request for \$80 million for El Salvador?

PRESIDENT REAGAN: Not completely happy. The cup's half full. We need a full cup. We will go back for more.

USA TODAY: A lot of Americans wonder if you're getting us into another Vietnam. Is that true?

PRESIDENT REAGAN: There is no comparison whatsoever between this situation and Vietnam. I'll be speaking more about this Wednesday night to the Congress. There is not and never has been any thought of sending troops any place here in the Americas — nor are they asked for or wanted. Three-fourths or more of all the aid has been economic aid. Less than one-fourth has been military aid.

USA TODAY: But didn't Vietnam start in a similar way?

PRESIDENT REAGAN: The whole thing was totally different ... to say nothing about being 10,000 miles away. (In El Salvador) the duly elected government is being attacked by guerrilla forces that are sponsored by outside countries.

USA TODAY: What is the difference in the political situations in El Salvador and in Nicaragua?

PRESIDENT REAGAN: Nicaragua is a revolutionary government that by force took over the government; but then

you had the internal fighting in which many of the revolutionaries were cast aside and the promises that were made as being goals of the revolution were never carried out. Our country had tried to get along with and negotiate with Nicaragua. The arms are coming into El Salvador by way of Nicaragua. We know that the operations of the Salvadoran guerrillas are directed by radio from the capital of Nicaragua. ...

“
No one should be talking increased taxes.
”



We're interested in making it more difficult, in fact, impossible, for Nicaragua to continue to arm the guerrillas in El Salvador.

USA TODAY: Sen. Howard Baker suggested that \$8 billion to \$10 billion of new taxes may be needed to save the

third year of your tax cut and indexing? Do you agree?

PRESIDENT REAGAN: Right now, with this recovery at the stage it has reached, no one should be talking increased taxes. This would be a good way to set back or cancel the recovery.

USA TODAY: If the third year of your tax cut were in jeopardy, would you accept some kind of new tax to save it?

PRESIDENT REAGAN: If they attempted it, I'd veto it.

USA TODAY: Your Commission on Educational Excellence has found a tide of mediocrity in American schools. Would you support more federal aid for a crash educational program?

PRESIDENT REAGAN: We think there is a parallel between federal involvement in education and the decline in quality in recent years. What is needed is more than just throwing money at education. Right now, we're spending more than any other country in the world, \$215 billion on education ... but we're not taking the students to the limit of their ability.

USA TODAY: Sen. Moynihan told the American Newspaper Publishers Association Monday they should “roar like a tiger” and vigorously oppose press restraints by Congress and the administration. Do you agree?

PRESIDENT REAGAN: I do not think so. I think the press is free to print those things that should be printed. To suggest that we should declassify things regarding national security would be ridiculous.

USA TODAY: Should the public complain about what it's getting in the way of news out of Washington?

PRESIDENT REAGAN: Yes, I would like to complain. They are getting too many leaks.

USA TODAY: Does the public have a clear understanding of your defense policies?

PRESIDENT REAGAN: People have been led to believe that defense is just larded with fat and so you would not be really hurting the muscle fi-



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Photographs by Barbara Ries, USA TODAY

ber of our security if you took more money away. To say, “Let's take \$5 billion off or \$10 billion off of the defense budget” — there's no way you can budget militarily that way. ... The man who says, “Let's reduce the budget by \$10 billion,” should be made to look at that defense plan. Then we say to him, “What would you do away with that would save \$10 billion? And how much will that increase the insecurity of our country?”

USA TODAY: Do you think the public understands the issue involving the banks and a withholding tax on dividends and interest?

PRESIDENT REAGAN: I think there was a perception built among millions of people that this was a new tax — that somehow something that had never been levied before against them was going to be levied. They did not understand how the great majority of them wouldn't even be touched by this.

USA TODAY: If it passes, will you veto the compromise that delays withholding on interest and dividends until 1987?

PRESIDENT REAGAN: I'm going to wait before I make any comment of that kind whether I'll veto or not, until I see what eventually arises ... but the plain truth of the matter is this is not a new tax. It is a tax that people are presently paying and all that we wanted to do, the same as we do with wages with withholding, was to be able to head off several millions of people who are cheating on their income tax.

USA TODAY: A state party chairman who had lunch with you last week told friends that you leaned over and said to him: “Don't worry. I'm going to run again.” Have you told anybody that?

PRESIDENT REAGAN: I haven't said that to anyone, really.

USA TODAY: Even Nancy?

PRESIDENT REAGAN: Not even Nancy.

USA TODAY: Do you feel that the press is trying to get you out of the 1984 campaign?

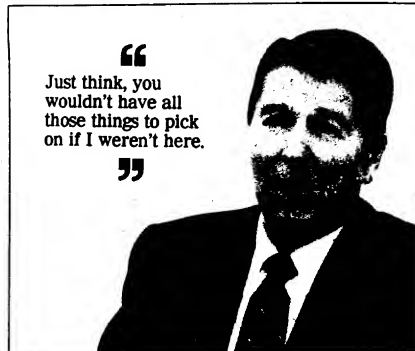
PRESIDENT REAGAN: No. Just think, you wouldn't have all those things to pick on if I weren't here.

USA TODAY: You've said before that the media report too much bad news. But there's been good economic news lately. Has the news got-

ten better, or are the media giving you better coverage?

PRESIDENT REAGAN: Well, the news has gotten better. But I was probably speaking more there of the TV news. You know show business is based on the audience having an emotional experience. The sad stories were appealing and there just seemed to be a great emphasis on this. The other day there was a news story that someplace they were setting a record of 500 businesses going belly-up each year. But no mention was made of the fact ... that in the same period when several thousand businesses were reported as closing, 600,000 businesses started up.

USA TODAY: Some experts think part of the recovery is because Paul Volcker, chairman of the Federal Reserve, has loosened the reins on the money supply. Why do you want to get rid of him now?



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Just think, you wouldn't have all those things to pick on if I weren't here.
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PRESIDENT REAGAN: (Laughter). The way you asked that question, you cannot get a yes or no answer. There has never been any discussion over here about that. ... As a matter of fact, I told Mr. Volcker just the other day, after all of this flurry appeared, that there had been no decision made nor no conversation of any kind carried on here in the administration about this. And I hope he won't mind my telling you his answer. His answer was to laugh and say, “I've been around Washington a long time. Don't worry.”

USA TODAY: Do you intend to do anything about the feuding that is going on among some of your senior aides?

PRESIDENT REAGAN: Yes. I am disturbed about it. And I think there, again, this comes up in the subject, generally, of leaks. And I think it is time to put a stop to what I think is incorrect information. ... Incorrect information has added to this whole atmosphere.

USA TODAY: How are you going to do that?

PRESIDENT REAGAN: Well, I have thought of the guillotine. (Laughter.) But I will stop short of that.

USA TODAY: Is it correct, for instance, that the National Security Council people and James Baker and his staff are not communicating as well as they should?

PRESIDENT REAGAN: I think some of the attacks that I have seen recently are pretty reprehensible. Maybe some of this comes from the way I chose to do business. It's the way I did it in California for eight years. I understand that in past cabinets, for example, each person had his own turf and no one else in the cabinet would talk about a decision affecting the turf of that cabinet member. I don't do business that way. Ours is more like a board of directors. I want all the input because there are very few issues that don't lap over into other areas. Can you talk about farm exports without being involved with the Department of Commerce and the Treasury Department and so forth? I want to hear all the views and all the input. And then I make the decisions.